THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Beer manufacturing projects in India

1208. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases recommended by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for setting up Beer manufacturing projects in India;

(b) the number of them approved by the Secretariat of Industrial Approvals for grant of L.O.I.;

(c) the number of State Industrial Development Corporations who had applied for L.O.I. for setting up Beer Projects;

(d) whether any State Industrial Development Corporations have been given L.O.I. for the same so far;

(e) whether any State Chief Minister has written to Government to give L.O.I. for their State Industrial Development Corporation to set up Beer projects, if so, what action has been taken thereon in the matter;

(f) whether it is a fact that Himachal State Industrial Development Corporation has been recommended for a L.O.I. by the Licensing Committee of Industrial Development; and

(g) what are the reasons for not granting an industrial licence when some private party has been given a licence in the same State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) After taking into consideration all relevant factors including the advise of technical authority, Ministry of Food Processing Industries have recommended 119 cases since 1989 for grant of letter of intent for setting up Beer manufacturing projects in India.

(b) SIA has granted Letters of Intent in respect of 9 applications including 6 from Non Resident Indians (excluding those issued under 100% Export Oriented Unit Scheme).

(c) and (d) 9 State Industrial Development Corporations have applied for setting up Beer projects, out of which one Industrial Development Corporation has been granted Letter of Intent.

(e) to (e) The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has written to the Government of India for grant of Letter of Intent to the Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation for the Beer project. The application from Himachal Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation alongwith others was considered and recommended by Licensing Committee in its 42nd meeting held on 25-11-1991, but Government have not made a decision on these recommendations.

Production of NERAMAC

1209. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of installed capacity and actual production of pineapple products being produced by M/s: North Eastern Regional Agriculture Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), a Government Enterprise under his Ministry;

(b) what are the reasons for not utilising its full capacity inspite of growing demand and the steps being taken by NERAMAC to minimise losses and expenditure; and

(c) what commission, incentives, facilities, NERAMAC propose to offer to consignment agents or distributors for sales promotion of their products and enable the NERAMAC to utilise its full installed capacity to minimise losses and expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation's fruit juice concentrate plant at Nalkata (North Tripura) has an installed capacity to

process 48 M/T of Pineapple fruits per day. As per the project report the annual installed capacity of the plant comes to 5760 M/T of Pineapple fruit and 554 M/T of Pineapple Juice Concentrate. The actual production of fruit and fruit products during the period from 1988-89 to 1991-92 is as under :

(In M/Tons)

Year	FRUIT PRODUCTS		
	Fruit (Pineapple)	Pineapple Juice Concentrate.	Pulp.
1988-89	641.54	36.05	—
1989-90	1023.60	62.82	—
1990-91	219.36	15.00	—
1991-92	650.00	38.52	24.00

The reasons for under utilisation of the capacity are as under :—

(i) Availability of fruits only for a period of 60/70 days during summer season and for a period of 30/40 days during winter (off) season;

(ii) Absence of captive/contract farming as well as staggering cultivation of pineapple fruits with hybrid variety resulted in non-availability of quality fruits during processing season leading to low input output ratio.

(iii) Financial constraints;

(iv) Lack of sustained marketing efforts for disposal of pineapple juice concentrate in the domestic/external market since commissioning of the project

In order to minimise the losses, the Corporation is taking steps to introduce captive/staggering cultivation of pineapple to ensure quality fruits availability for at least 200 days in a year. Efforts have been made to successfully produce pineapple pulp (a by-product of pineapple) which was hitherto being drained out with other affluents. In addition, the Corporation is proposing for R&D work for standardisation of existing product, development of new products and also to reduce/minimise transport cost and operational cost etc.

(c) There is no proposal at present to appoint consignment agent/distributors in view of existing actual production of pineapple juice concentrate.

Threat posed by Asbestos industry

1210. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious threat and risks posed by the Asbestos Industry, and if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken by the industry/Government in the matter;

(b) whether it is a fact that building industry poses a threat to workers and school children etc. as has been brought out in U.S.A. General Accounting Office reports GAO/RCED-92-57FS, January, 1992 and GAO/RCED-92-93 report of February, 1992; and

(c) whether any detailed studies have been conducted so far in the matter, and if so, the details thereof indicating any effective R and D work aimed at finding alternatives to asbestos ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Various studies on health hazardous nature of air borne asbestos fibre reveals that it is a carcinogenic material and hence there is work place problem. Due to this, manufacture of asbestos and asbestos based products have been included in the list of industries in